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Forage News

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## Forage News [2000-03]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

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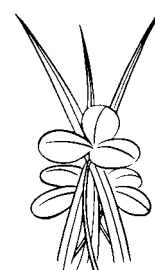
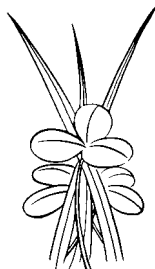
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# FORAGE NEWS



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## In this month's issue:

• KFGC President's Corner • Kentucky Alfalfa Conference Celebrates 20 Years • Sign up Now for the Spring Kentucky Grazing School • All Forage Variety Reports are Available • KFGC Beef and Forage Field Day is June 8 at Eden Shale • Does Aeration of Pastures and Hayfields Pay? • College of Agriculture Field Day • Upcoming Events

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**March 2000**

*Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary*

## KFGC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council has been a co-sponsor of the KY Alfalfa Conference since its inception. In honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the conference on February 24 in Cave City, we established three new awards. The awards were named to honor three people who have made major contributions toward promoting alfalfa in Kentucky, North America and worldwide. An Alfalfa Public Service award was named for Dr. Garry Lacefield. Garry has served as Extension Forage Specialist in the UK College of Agriculture for 25 years. He started the KY Alfalfa Conference and has been the one primarily responsible for its great success over the years. He worked nationally with the Alfalfa Council to establish and conduct numerous Alfalfa Intensive Training Schools across the U.S.

The Alfalfa Industry Service Award was named for Warren Thompson. Warren worked for many years with the Extension Service, much of that time as Extension Forage Specialist. For the last 25+ years, he has worked with the alfalfa seed industry and was very instrumental in the introduction of grazing tolerant alfalfa with the 'Alfagraze' variety. Warren is recognized nationally as a strong supporter of forages - especially alfalfa.

The Alfalfa Producer Award was named for the late Charles Schnitzler, a Lincoln County farmer. Charles was a strong supporter of forages and soil conservation. He allowed his farm to be used for testing and demonstrating forage improvements and served as a spokesperson for alfalfa in Kentucky and nationally. In fact, he was named national forage spokesperson by the American Forage and Grassland Council as the result of winning the national forage spokesperson contest. Charlie was also one of the first two producer members to be elected to the AFGC Board of Directors.

Future winners of these awards will have their names associated with three of the "giants" of the forage world - all of whom are Kentucky sons. (*Monroe Rasnake*)

## KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kentucky Alfalfa Conference was held Thursday, February 24 at the Cave City Convention Center. The Conference was preceded with an appreciation banquet on Wednesday evening. Over 250 people from several states attended either the banquet or conference. The program featured exhibits, a silent auction, and a full slate of top alfalfa speakers. Keynote speakers included Dr. Don Ball, Extension Agronomist, Auburn University and Ms. Becky Greenwald, Worldwide Products Marketing Manager, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, IA. Welcomes and opening comments were provided by Dr. Oran Little, Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky; Mr. Larry Jeffries, President, American Forage & Grassland Council; Mr. Steve Johnston, President, National Alfalfa Council; and Dr. Monroe Rasnake, President, Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council.

## SIGN UP NOW FOR THE SPRING KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

The 2000 Kentucky Grazing School will be held April 25, 26, 27 at the UK Washington County Extension Office in Springfield, Kentucky. Pre-Registration is necessary, but you can come to any or all three days of the school at a cost of \$20 per day. The UK Washington County Extension Office is located at 211 Progress Street in Springfield which is one block north and ½ block east of the intersection of KY 150 and KY 555. Phone: 606.336.7741. The Kentucky Grazing School is co-sponsored by the University of Kentucky, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. The special low registration fee is made possible by a value-added grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

You must preregister for the school by contacting Ken Johnson or Jimmy Henning (see below) to reserve a spot. The registration fee is \$20 per day per person. You may come to one day, any combination of days or all three days of the school. Registration covers your meals, breaks, and educational materials. Daily enrollment in this grazing school is limited to the first 45

who register. The school is open to all.

Make checks payable to: **Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council** and send to: **Ken Johnson, P.O. Box 700, Tompkinsville, KY 42167-0700, phone 270.487.6589, Ext 3.**

**Who to contact for more information or to pre-register:**

Jimmy C. Henning, UK Agronomy, Phone: 606.257.3144, Fax: 606.323.1952, Email: [jhenning@ca.uky.edu](mailto:jhenning@ca.uky.edu) OR Ken Johnson, NRCS, Phone: 270.487.6589, Ext 3, Fax: 270.487.6171, Email: [kjohson@kystate.ky.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:kjohnson@kystate.ky.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **ALL FORAGE VARIETY REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE**

Forage variety reports are now printed and available from your county extension office or on the UK College of Agriculture Web Site (see <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/respubs.htm>). These are all Progress Reports, numbered from 425 to 430. The reports available are: 1999 Alfalfa (Yield) - PR 425, 1999 Red Clover (Yield) - PR 426, 1999 Alfalfa Grazing Tolerance - PR 427, 1999 Cool Season Grass Grazing Tolerance - PR 428, 1999 Tall Fescue (Yield) - PR 429, 1999 Orchardgrass (Yield) - PR 430. Seed supplies of some varieties may be limited, so get your seed ordered soon.

## **KFGC BEEF AND FORAGE FIELD DAY IS JUNE 8 AT EDEN SHALE**

Please mark Thursday, June 8 on your calendars for the KFGC Beef and Forage Field Day at the Eden Shale Research Farm in Owen County. The field day will start at approximately 6 p.m. with a meal followed by a tour of the farm. Watch this newsletter for further details.

## **DOES AERATION OF PASTURES AND HAYFIELDS PAY?**

Research results on aeration - A few replicated field experiments have been conducted with aerators or chisels on pastures or hayfields. Coastal bermudagrass on an eroded soil with a clay pan on the surface was chiseled to a depth of six inches in the Texas Blacklands which doubled or tripled forage yields. In Wales, a perennial ryegrass pasture on clay loam soil grazed with cattle for 26 years was aerated with rotating long triangles that penetrated to a depth of 5 inches, doubling forage yield.

In contrast to these two success stories, other experiments have been less encouraging. In eastern Oklahoma treatment of a bermudagrass pasture with a spike-toothed aerator had little effect on yield. A large 2-year study on aeration was done on silty soil at the Brown Loam Station and on sandy loam soil at the South Mississippi Station in Mississippi where an aerator, shank renovator, disk, and deep chisel were compared to controls on bahiagrass pasture and bermudagrass hay fields at both locations. Treatments were also tested at different times of the year. The aerator penetrated to a depth of 2 inches on silty soil and nearly 3 inches on the sandy loam. None of the treatments had any effect on soil penetration resistance, moisture content, or forage yield.

Experiments at the Middle Tennessee and University of Tennessee-Knoxville experiment stations on tall fescue showed virtually no difference in forage yield between aerated and non-aerated areas. Demonstrations with aerated and non-aerated strips of tall fescue on four farms in south central Tennessee by a county agent showed a forage yield advantage of only 214 pounds of dry forage per acre. The cost of aeration was estimated at approximately \$10 per acre. It was concluded that aeration did not pay the expenses. In a study at the Sand Mountain Substation in north Alabama, two types of soil aerators increased tall fescue yields but the cost of aeration exceeded the value of extra forage produced. (SOURCE: Dr. Carl S. Hoveland, Univ. of GA)

## **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY**

The UK College of Agriculture All Commodity Field Day will be held July 20 at the Research and Education Center in Princeton. The theme is "Growing Ideas Since 1925" in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the Center on Labor Day in 1925. Forage improvement practices have been a part of the research and demonstration program throughout the history of the station. The station superintendent in his report to the Dean following the severe drought of 1930 stated that "alfalfa saved the day" for them.

There will be lots of things for livestock and forage producers to see on the tours this year. The forage tour topics are bermudagrass varieties, round bale silage, the forage variety testing program and endophyte free fescues. The beef tours and many others - especially the display tent should be of interest as well. Make plans now to be in Princeton on July 20. (Monroe Rasnake)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

APR 25-27	Kentucky Grazing School, Springfield
JUN 8	KFGC Field Day, Eden Shale Farm, Owenton
JUL 16-19	AFGC, Madison, WI
JUL 20	U.K. All Commodity Field Day, Princeton

Garry D. Lacefield  
*Garry D. Lacefield*

Jimmy C. Henning  
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*Extension Forage Specialists*

March 2000

